



**THE FRESNO MORNING REPUBLICAN**  
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# IS INDEPENDENCE DANGEROUS?

The esteemed Tulare Register is considerably alarmed by what is generally termed the growing independence of the American voter. It expresses the belief that this "liberty," unsettled state of the public mind is more dangerous to the public welfare than the steadfast if more unreasoning patriotism which preceded it.

It is certainly desirable that there should be steadiness of conviction among the people on the great underlying principles of government, for in a republic that stability of government depends upon the people. However, we are inclined to believe that the vacillating state of the public mind in a transitory condition, and that it will pass away, to some extent at least, when both the government and the people have had a little more time to adjust themselves to the marvelous changes which have been wrought by the railroads, the telegraph, and the thousand and one labor-saving inventions revolutionizing the lives, the habits and the many respects the ideas of the people. Adapting ourselves to these new agencies in modern civilization naturally creates a good deal of friction and disturbance and has an unsettling effect on the public mind. So far as its tendency is to weaken the stability of government, the lack of adherence to political parties is to be deprecated, but we do not believe that tendency will be permanent.

A modified spirit of independence, such as is likely to follow more settled condition of affairs in general, we believe to be essential to the public good. It puts a check upon political parties which cannot be successfully exercised in any other way. The old regime of strict partisanship gave the parties a license to do things which they are now afraid to do because of the certainty of punishment by their own membership. The nomination of unfit men for positions of responsibility was also one of the evils of the era of strict party fealty which in reduced to a minimum by the independent spirit of the people who exercise the franchise.

The great value of political independence we think will be found in the reforms which will be effected in municipal and other branches of local government, in which it will be more largely exercised than in national affairs. Without this independence in local government party machines become absolute in their control, and the choice of the voter is limited to a choice between organizations of corruption which differ only in name. This is true of all the large cities. Independence in these centers of population and political power stands as a menace to the machines, limiting their power for evil and compelling concessions to virtue and decency.

One of the chief dangers to American institutions lies in municipal corruption, the contaminating influence of which extends to all branches of government. The hope of mitigating the evils of that corruption is certainly in the independence of the voter, exercised in the interests of political decency and honest government.

It may seem just at the present time that the spirit of independence has taken too much of the form of imprudence and instability, but we believe that the fullness of time will demonstrate to the contrary; or, at least, that it is the forerunner of better things than we could hope to enjoy under a rule of strict partisanship.

## VOTERS WERE NOT DECEIVED

The Populist brother, W. H. Coreton, submits some of his ideas of the late contest at the polls to a waiting public through the columns of The Republican this morning. He thinks that the wicked Republicans have been throwing dust in the beaming eye of the unsophisticated American voter, and has therefore blinded him so to the real issues before the country.

There appears to be no reason for disagreeing with Mr. Coreton in regard to the proposition that a good deal of dust was kicked upon in the campaign by all parties. We will even go so far as to admit that considerable of that obscuring stuff was stirred up by the Populists, but the opinion that the voters were blinded thereby is apparently unfounded. We are very much inclined to believe that they saw through it all with unusual clearness of vision.

The complaint of the Populist brother that the Republicans made the campaign on the issue that Democratic free trade had ruined the country, and that the party is now receding from that position by declaring for conservative legislation on that question, is not well founded in fact. The Republicans declared that the business of the country had been paralyzed by the Democratic threat of free trade, the long uncertainty of attempted legislation on the question, and the unsatisfactory protective measure which was finally evolved from the chaos of Democratic incapacity, but the same was not made that the country would be ruined by the Wilson bill, unsatisfactory as it is either to protectionists or free traders. The issue as made by the Republicans was that the Democratic free trade crusade had already brought the country to the verge of ruin, and that the leaders of that party, unaided by their own work, were threatening to reopen the contest and renew the agitation and uncertainty. To prevent this contingency and to preserve the protective system from destruction, the Republican party asked to be returned to power. The people did not, and did it with a unanimity that leaves no doubt that they knew exactly what they were doing and why they did it. They had all the experience with free trade legislation that they wanted, and they said so emphatically.

The Republican party accepts this

verdict, we think, exactly as the people intended to give it. While it gives notice that free trade is not wanted, there is reason for believing that the people desire that there shall be no more radical legislation on the tariff question. A conservative protective tariff will be practically unassailable, and will prevent the further unsettling of business by periodical agitation and uncertainty. The stability of business interests demands such a tariff, and we think the Republican party has the political judgment to give it to the country.

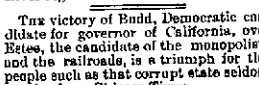
As to an alleged change of front on the silver question, that is purely a matter of imagination. The Republican party of this state declared in favor of silver coinage at a ratio of 16 to 1, and the party and press of the state are practically united on that question. The Republican is in favor of silver coinage, but it does not for that reason think it necessary to blink its eye to the growing sentiment throughout the world in favor of an agreed ratio, and the increasing probability that such desirable object can be accomplished. There are two roads leading towards the remonetization of silver, and while people may differ as to which is likely to be the shortest and least difficult to follow, there can be no question about the certainty and superiority of the advantage coming through coinage at an agreed ratio with other nations. There are growing indications that this agreement can be brought about in the not distant future. If not, then let us coin our own silver regardless of other nations.

## THE PEOPLE'S SHOE STORE

1050 I STREET.  
ALEXANDER & GOODMAN.

Call and look at the finest line of Men's, Ladies', Misses' and Children's Shoes. Also a fine line of Novelties at less than what it cost to manufacture the same.

REMEMBER THE PLACE.



**MANHOOD RESTORED**  
"CUPIDINE"  
This great Vegetable Preparation, which restores manhood, is a true and reliable remedy for all cases of impotence, loss of vitality, and all other ailments of the male sex. It is a true and reliable remedy for all cases of impotence, loss of vitality, and all other ailments of the male sex.

**Gold Stamped Draperies!**  
We have just received an elegant line of Gold Stamped Cotton Draperies. The patterns are beautiful and the price will be 25c per yard. A ticket entitling the holder to a chance for one of the elegant Vases given with every 50c purchase.

## JAPANESE STORE - K. SUGIHARA & CO

1835 Mariposa Street, Fresno.  
1047 I Street.  
WOLTERS & CO., DEALERS IN  
Wines and Liquors.

## CASH PAID For Fat Stock, Hogs and Poultry.

5000 CHICKENS WANTED.  
West Side Market Stores  
A. D. GREEN, Proprietor.

## THE BEST MACHINE

To Buy.  
First Premium of the World's Columbian Exposition!

**THE SINGER MANUFACTURING COMPANY**  
RECEIVED 54 FIRST AWARDS!  
Being the Largest Number of Awards obtained by any exhibitor and more than double the number received by all other Sewing Machine Companies.

## THE SINGER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

"ALL OVER THE WORLD."  
PACIFIC COAST AGENCY, No. 22 Post Street, San Francisco, Cal. BRANCH OFFICE—1001 J Street, Sacramento, Cal.

## Decrease in Value of Farm Animals

Secretary Morton's report shows that a heavy decline in the value of nearly all farm animals has taken place since last year as will be seen by the following table:

	Value	Value
Horses	\$12.25	\$12.25
Mules	\$12.25	\$12.25
Oxen and other cattle	\$12.25	\$12.25
Sheep	\$12.25	\$12.25
Pigs	\$12.25	\$12.25

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

Following are the real estate transactions recorded yesterday:

Wanted—Agents to represent the old National Life Insurance Co., Montpelier, Vt. For further information address J. B. Harrington, General Agent, Manager, 82, 84, Crocker building, San Francisco, Cal.

## Herbal Tissue Builder

For Weak Men and Women.  
The most positive and speedy cures. Purely herbal, reliable, harmless and safe.

## HERBAL REMEDY CO.

New York. San Francisco.  
For Sale by Smith Bros., Fresno

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**SHOES! SHOES!**  
HAVING PURCHASED  
1800 Pairs of Nolan's Fine Shoes, 2200 Pairs of Siebe-Glanville Co. Fine Shoes and 1900 Buckingham & Hecht Celebrated Shoes at about 40c on the dollar, we will sell the same at 50c on the dollar until the stock is sold out.

Call and look at the finest line of Men's, Ladies', Misses' and Children's Shoes. Also a fine line of Novelties at less than what it cost to manufacture the same.

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YOUNG MEN'S LODGE NO. 121, A. U. W. U.  
Meets every Tuesday evening in hall, corner of 1st and 2nd streets, at 8 o'clock. Initiation and other ceremonies are held on the 1st of each month. For further information apply to the Secretary, J. M. Collins, Recorder.

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